

**SAINT IVES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR

1972

AND THE

CHIEF

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1972 AND 1973



**LIST OF PARISHES
IN THE
COUNCIL'S AREA**

Bluntisham

Broughton

Bury

Colne

Earith

Fenstanton

Hemingford Abbots

Hemingford Grey

Hilton

Holywell-cum-Needingworth

Houghton and Wyton

Oldhurst

Pidley-cum-Fenton

Somersham

Warboys

Wistow

Woodhurst



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Saint Ives Rural District Council

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Vice-Chairman of the Council : R. G. Fleming, Esq.

Members of the Council :

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D. H. Burch, Esq.	K. V. Pratt, Esq.
W. A. K. Dear, Esq.	Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.
P. G. M. Dickinson, Esq.	W. F. H. Robbins, Esq.
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
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D. B. Wright, Esq.	

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : S. E. K. Falconer, Esq., C.C.

Vice-Chairman : Revd. G. E. Wood

Members :

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	R. G. Fleming, Esq.
D. H. Burch, Esq.	K. V. Pratt, Esq.
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G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	H. Stott, Esq.
Rev. A. J. R. Eyre	Canon N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
D. B. Wright, Esq.	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P., & S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

K. Broom, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

P. A. Haggerty, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Administrative Assistant : Mrs. E. E. Cooper

Sewage Works Manager : T. O. Sewter

Cleansing Superintendent : P. A. Desborough

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. IVES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1972**

To : The Chairman and Members of the
St. Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my final report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1972. As the vital statistics from the Registrar General will not be available until much later in the year it is not possible to include the figures for 1973 in this report.

Vital Statistics

Population The estimated mid-year population rose during the year by just over 1,000 bringing the total figure to 20,210. This rise is somewhat less than that which occurred in the previous 12 months (1,300) but judging by the development going on in the rural district one would expect that this extent of increase would continue for some years to come.

Birth Rate There was little change in the number of births credited to the district this year as compared with 1971 and as a result of the increased population the local adjusted birth rate shows a considerable drop from 20·5 per 1,000 population last year to 16·7 in 1972. This figure, 16·7, is still however almost 2 per 1,000 above the rate for England and Wales.

Deaths There were 143 deaths of residents of the district recorded this year — 14 less than in the previous twelve months. This gives a local adjusted death rate of 8·9 per 1,000 population — approximately 1 per 1,000 less than last year and 3·2 per 1,000 less than the rate for the country as a whole.

Infant Mortality 2 infants died during the year before reaching the age of 1 year. This is exactly the

same number as was recorded last year and results in an infant mortality rate for the district of 5 per 1,000 live births compared with the figure of 12 for England and Wales.

Infectious Disease The incidence of notifiable infectious disease throughout the district remains minimal, there being only 14 notifications received for the whole year.

Hospital Facilities

Since my last report confirmation has been received from the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board that, following consultation with the Authorities concerned, it is proposed to make a start on phase I of the Hinchingsbrook Hospital by about the end of 1972 and on the main unit during the Summer of 1973. It is hoped that the completion of the whole phase will be achieved by the Autumn of 1975.

The Council welcomed this proposal and expressed the hope that the Government would make the necessary financial provisions to enable the whole scheme to be completed at the earliest possible date.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Phipps and all other members of the Department's staff for their continuing support and helpfulness throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES CALDWELL.

SAINT IVES RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1972

Estimated mid-year population 20,210

Live Births	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	197	187	384
Illegitimate	4	8	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	201	195	396
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 19·6

Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (·85) 16·7

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales) . 14·8

Still Births

Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total live and still-births 5

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total live and still-births (England and Wales) . 12

Deaths	79	64	143
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 7·1

Death rate corrected by comparability factor (1·26) 8·9

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales) . 12·1

Infant Mortality —

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2	—	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)	5
Infant Mortality rate (England and Wales)	17

Table classifying deaths under age groups

<i>Ages</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 4 weeks	1	—	1
4 weeks and under 1 year	1	—	1
1 and under 4 years	—	—	—
5 and under 14 years	1	—	1
15 and under 24 years	1	1	2
25 and under 34 years	1	2	3
35 and under 44 years	—	—	—
45 and under 54 years	5	7	12
55 and under 64 years	10	6	16
65 and under 74 years	26	17	43
75 years and over	33	31	64
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	79	64	143
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The following table indicates the trend in population, birth and death rates for the District over the past five years .-

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Population	17,640	17,980	17,890	19,190	20,210
Births					
Total live births	303	330	342	404	396
Crude birth rate	17.2	18.4	19.1	21.1	19.6
Area comparability factor	.97	.97	.97	.97	.85
Corrected birth rate	16.7	17.8	18.5	20.5	16.7
Birth rate (England and Wales)	16.9	16.3	16.0	16.0	14.8

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Deaths					
Total deaths	152	144	140	157	143
Crude death rate	8.6	8.0	7.8	8.2	7.1
Area comparability factor	1.2	1.22	1.20	1.20	1.26
Corrected death rate	10.4	9.8	9.4	9.8	8.9
Death rate (England and Wales)	11.9	11.9	11.7	11.6	12.1

Notifications of Infectious Disease during 1972

	<i>Total cases notified</i>			
Scarlet Fever	.	.	.	3
Whooping Cough	.	.	.	—
Diphtheria	.	.	.	—
Measles	.	.	.	5
Typhoid Fever	.	.	.	—
Paratyphoid Fever	.	.	.	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	.	.	.	—
Infective Jaundice	.	.	.	2
Food Poisoning	.	.	.	1
Dysentery	.	.	.	2
Acute Meningitis	.	.	.	—
Tuberculosis	.	.	.	1
				—
			Total	14
				—

SAINT IVES RURAL DISTRICT CAUSES OF DEATHS (Registrar General's List)

<i>List No.</i>	<i>Causes</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
B6 (1)	Late Effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	—
B18	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1

B19 (3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	5
B19 (4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	1
B19 (6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	3
B19 (9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	4	—
B19 (10)	Leukæmia	—	1
B19 (11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	4
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	—	1
B46 (4)	Multiple Sclerosis	1	—
B46 (5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	2
B27	Hypertensive Disease	2	2
B28	Ischmæmic Heart Disease	24	12
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	4	—
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	10	10
B46 (6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	5
B32	Pneumonia	4	5
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	2
B46 (7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1
B46 (8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	—
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	
B46 (9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	—
B46 (11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	—	3
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	—
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1
BE48	All other Accidents	—	3
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	—	1
Total all Causes		<u>79</u>	<u>64</u>

SAINT IVES RURAL DISTRICT

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number of persons on Register at
31st December 1972 ... 23

Pulmonary ... 19					Non-Pulmonary ... 4				
New Cases - Diagnosed					New Cases - Transfers				
Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Totals	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory,
Hills Road, Cambridge.

Tel. Cambridge (STD 0223) 42111.

Public Analyst,
(S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.),
Tenison Road, Cambridge.

Tel. Cambridge 52097.

(b) Ambulance Service

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctors' orders. Tel. Huntingdon 53348.

(c) Home Nursing

Nurse/Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council carried out home nursing and attended maternity cases in the District.

(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres

- (i) The following Health Services were provided by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council:-

Clinic	Patients Seen	When Held	Where Held
Infant Welfare	Children (0 – 5 years)	Every Friday and 1st and 3rd Wednesday in month. 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Child Health Centre, Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
		1st Monday in month. 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton.
		3rd Monday in month. 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Youth Centre, Somersham.
		1st Wednesday in month. 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Women's Institute Hall, Warboys.
		Alternate Thursdays. 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	R.A.F. Station, Wyton.
Dental	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	By appointment.	Child Health Centre, Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
	Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	By appointment.	Child Health Centre, Nursery Road, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services were provided by the Regional Hospital Board :-

Clinic	Patients Seen	When Held	Where Held
Chest	All Ages	Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. and 2.00 – 3.00 p.m.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Disease	All Cases	Tuesday from 2.00 – 6.00 p.m. Thursday from 2.00 – 6.00 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Females	Tuesday from 10.30 a.m. Thursday from 2.00 p.m.	Clinic 5, Outpatients Department, Peterborough District Hospital, Peterborough.
	Males	Monday from 5.00 p.m. Wednesday from 5.30 p.m.	

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service :-

Clinic	Patients Seen	When Held	Where Held
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	By appointment.	Child Health Centre, Nursery Road, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopædic, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynæcological and Dental Out-Patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services

Fever – Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Maternity Unit, Primrose Lane, Huntingdon, and Maternity Hospital, Mill Road, Cambridge.

(f) Family Planning Clinics

Huntingdon

Held at the Child Health Centre,
Nursery Road, Huntingdon.
Every Wednesday.
7.00 – 8.30 p.m.

*(To make an appointment
call at the Clinic or
telephone Huntingdon 53398
after 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday evenings ONLY)*

St. Ives

Held at the Child Health Centre,
Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
Every Monday.
9.30 – 11.00 a.m.

*(To make an appointment
call at the Clinic or
telephone St. Ives 62622
during sessions ONLY)*

St. Neots

Held at the Child Health Centre,
Almond Road, St. Neots.
Tuesday evenings.
7.00 – 9.00 p.m.
1st and 3rd Thursday mornings.
9.30 – 11.30 a.m.

*(To make an appointment
telephone Huntingdon 72261
during session times ONLY)*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As this will be the last Annual Report relating specifically to Saint Ives Rural District, I consider it would be convenient to combine the reports for 1972 and 1973 and so bring the record up to date, and this has been done.

It was a great personal disappointment to me that due to circumstances, mainly outside the control of the Council, that three of the smaller villages in the District are still without Main Drainage.

The decisions on the implementation of this last scheme now rest with the Anglian Water Authority which, in turn, is dependant on the Government for its allocation of money for Capital Works.

When I was appointed by the Council in 1938 the Country was then suffering from a long period of economic depression which was quite as severe in Rural, as it was in Industrial areas.

Over the past thirty-six years the financial pendulum has swung to and fro and has had a considerable influence of the activities of the Council, as its major expenditure has always been subject to 'Ministry approval' and there appears little likelihood that the newly appointed District Councils will be any less dependant on the financial pendulum as they, too, will be in receipt of Grants and Subsidies from the Central Government and will require loan consents from it for major capital expenditure.

It seems inevitable that the first head on which the financial axe falls is the so called 'Public Sector', and it is to be regretted that this has occurred once again; at the very moment when the new Local Authorities have, doubtless, completed their plans for 1974 - 1975.

Finally, I wish to thank both the present Councillors and their predecessors, many of them personal friends of mine, for their assistance and, on occasion over the years, their forbearance, when I have disagreed with them on matters of principle or detail during Committee debates.

My congratulations, too, to Mr. Broom, Mr. Haggerty, Mrs. Cooper and Mr. Desborough, all of whom have accepted responsible positions with Huntingdon District Council and to Mr. Sewter, who will have an equally responsible position with the Ely Division of the Anglian Water Authority.

So, after 36 years, it is Adieu !

G. H. PHIPPS

*Chief Public Health Inspector
and Development Officer*

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

WATER

The Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board and the Cambridge Water Company are responsible for the supply and distribution of water in the district.

The Council has no direct representation on the Board of the Cambridge Water Company but appoints one Member to the Joint Consultation Committee. Similarly it has one representative on the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board.

The Nene and Ouse Water Board supplies water to Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Houghton and Wyton; the remainder of the district is supplied by the Cambridge Water Company.

During the year no restrictions on the use of water for domestic purposes were imposed by either the Board or the Company, and except in one or two areas, pressures have been adequate.

There is a good network of mains throughout the district extending to the fen areas to the North and East, and further extensions of the mains are completed to isolated farms and cottages from time to time.

The water supplied is extremely hard; up to 500 parts per million from the Joint Board, but the Cambridge Water Company has reduced this to approximately 300 parts per million by mixing softened water from Cambridge (130 parts per million) with the water from the Earith source (500 parts per million).

No fluoride is introduced into the supplies although the Council has advocated fluoridation.

The quality of all the supplies is satisfactory. Both the Joint Board and the Company take annual chemical samples at source and bacteriological samples from their distribution areas once a month.

One Firm operating a large Milk Distribution and Processing Plant has its own private source in the form of a shallow well. The water is chlorinated, softened

to zero degrees and then de-chlorinated before use. Bacteriological examination of this water is carried out daily by the Firm.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Main Drainage Schemes for Warboys, Oldhurst, Fenstanton, Hilton and Broughton which were in course of construction in 1972 were virtually completed in 1973 and are fully operational.

The scheme for Bluntisham, Colne and Earith should be fully operational by 31st March 1974 when the house connections are completed.

Further work will be necessary in all these villages to reduce infiltration from defective sewers on both Council and privately owned Housing Estates where the existing sewers were not replaced when the new foul sewers serving the respective villages were constructed. In previous schemes such defective sewers were replaced as the new sewers were constructed and infiltration is minimal in these villages.

Massive infiltration can however be expected (and indeed, has already occurred) until all the defective estate sewers are replaced. Following my report to the Council on the position, the Council's Consulting Engineers were requested to investigate the problem and are now completing a Survey of these estate sewers prior to making a comprehensive report to the Council.

There are four Sewage Treatment Works in the district, viz. at Needingworth, Somersham, Hemingford Abbots and Oldhurst, all of which are of conventional design, i.e. Sedimentation, biological filtration and tertiary treatment of the effluent. Consistently good results have been obtained from all the Treatment Works. Official samples of the effluents are periodically analysed by the Great Ouse River Authority and in the majority of cases these prove to be well above the standard of Purity requested by the Authority in granting its consent to the discharge of the effluents from these four Treatment Works to the Rivers.

Sludge dewatering plants are in operation at Oldhurst and Hemingford Abbots Treatment Works. Due to various delays Somersham Works is still without a sludge dewatering plant. The Council and the Department of the Environment have agreed that it is necessary, but the final decision on the provision of such plant now rests with the Anglian Water Authority.

With the exception of Pidley, Wistow and Woodhurst, all the villages and hamlets in the district have been sewered. It is impossible to say when this scheme will commence although it had reached the stage of accepting the lowest tender, as its degree of priority, in both the Huntingdon District Council and the Anglian Water Authority, has yet to be determined; but the latest "edict" from the Department of the Environment excludes it from consideration in the 1974 - 75 Financial Year, as are all such Schemes to bring Sewerage to Rural Areas for the first time, unless (a) there are serious hazards to Public Health or (b) will enable substantial residential development to proceed.

In issuing this Circular, the Department of the Environment has remained strangely silent on its former clarion call to purify our Watercourses and Rivers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Many previous reports have covered the Environmental aspects of the River Great Ouse which flows through the District and attracts large numbers of visitors to its banks throughout the year, to enjoy the natural facilities it provides, for Angling, Rowing, Cruising, Sailing, Camping, Wildfowling, Family Picnics and similar relaxations.

Some of these activities are reaching the point where they are competing with one another for river space and the increasing demand for the abstraction of its water for domestic and industrial use will bring further problems in the short term.

The new Ely Division of the Anglian Water Authority will have virtual control of the water cycle in the Great Ouse and its tributaries. Its major tasks will be to

balance the conflicting pressures of the separate interests within the Watershed. It is the intention of the Water Act 1973 that, in the long term, the Water Industry will be financially, self supporting, i.e. the cost of providing water for both domestic and industrial consumers and its complete purification before it is returned to the Rivers must be balanced by the income from these two sources.

No easy task !

Awarded Watercourses

Although not a Land Drainage Authority, the District Council is still burdened with the cost of the maintenance and cleansing of some 26 miles of Awarded Watercourses under the provisions of the Enclosure Awards.

It was hoped that this archaic legislation would have been revised by the Water Act 1973. Repeated representations to the Government, however, were unsuccessful.

The Great Ouse River Authority did accept responsibility for one such Watercourse, viz. Parsons Drove, in 1973, on payment of a commutation sum of £3,000 by the Council based on annual maintenance costs over the previous 10 years.

The sewer ditches that take both surface water and partially treated sewage from the old parish sewers are gradually improving as main drainage schemes are completed in the villages, and the effluent at the outfalls consists entirely of surface water from roads, roofs and yards, and the occasional land drain.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Night-Soil Collection

The number of pail lavatories in the district has fallen from over 2,000 in the post-war years, to 200. These are emptied weekly by a Cesspool Emptying Vehicle fitted with a night-soil attachment.

(b) *Cesspool Emptying*

Two tankers are engaged on this service and the tankering of sludge from Somersham and Needingworth to Oldhurst Sewage Treatment Works.

During 1972, 1,300 cesspools and septic tanks were emptied at the request of occupiers. In 1973 this figure was 1,631.

The charge for this service to householders not on the line of the new public sewers is £1.25 for the first load of 750 gallons and 50p for each additional load.

The charge for the service to houses within 100 ft. of the new foul sewers, which could be connected thereto, is £5 per visit, the increased price being fixed to encourage householders to take advantage of the new main drainage schemes as these are completed in each village.

Facilities for the reception and treatment of night-soil and the contents of septic tanks and cesspools were completed at Oldhurst Sewage Treatment Works during the year. Following the completion of modifications to this part of the Works mentioned in my report for 1971, these facilities have been improved and are satisfactory.

(c) *Refuse Collection and Disposal*

The transition from dustbins to sackholders and sacks was completed in 1972 and has proceeded very smoothly. That this hygienic method of storage and removal of household waste has been appreciated by the Ratepayers is borne out by the almost complete absence of complaints regarding this essential service and the very encouraging response from the householders to co-operate with the Refuse Collection Staff to overcome difficulties of access for removal of sacks. The Department has even had letters of congratulation from several householders; formerly, a very rare occurrence, but a welcome change!

In 1972 a request from Saint Ives Borough Council to negotiate terms for the renewal of their previous

arrangement with the Rural District Council for the collection and disposal of refuse from the Borough, which they had terminated in 1970 was approved by the Council.

Collections in the Borough were recommenced in November 1972, one of the terms agreed between the two Councils being the introduction by the Borough of the Sack Collection System.

The sackholders are well guarded but sacks are not immune from attacks by rats and mice. In the few instances of this nature which have occurred, it has been the policy of the Department to deal with the rodents rather than improve the type of sackholder provided.

The refuse is tipped at two worked out gravel pits at Somersham and Hemingford Grey; the former tip being used only in an emergency. The refuse is spread and levelled by a bulldozer but there is no earth cover to seal the tips.

The Council have a contract with a Pest Control Company for the regular baiting of the tips to control rats. Insects are controlled by sprays and powders operated by direct labour.

CIVIC AMENITIES

The two refuse tips are available for Ratepayers in the district to dispose of unwanted vehicles and bulky refuse. The Council has a contract with a local firm for the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles at the Council's tips.

A Land Rover and large capacity trailer is utilized to assist those householders who were unable to move their bulky refuse to the Council's tips. This service is run in conjunction with the service provided for the summer maintenance of open spaces and play areas on Housing Estates.

In practice this ensures that full use is made of vehicles and labour through both the summer and winter months. That there was a need for the collection of bulky refuse is apparent by the accumulations of house-

hold junk that is dumped indiscriminately in the district, some blatantly — some less conspicuously.

There is also a substantial increase in the amount of garden refuse mixed in with the dumped junk, which doubtless arises from the erection of substantial housing estates in both urban and rural communities with high density development.

Litter Receptacles

A number of Parish Councils have provided litter bins at suitable points. Suggestions as to the best type of receptacle to be provided are made to the Parish Councils. The receptacles are emptied on the normal refuse collection days in each parish, but in the hot weather they can give rise to nuisance when not emptied more frequently and it is difficult for the parishes to find anybody to undertake the work.

SWIMMING POOLS

Small swimming pools have been provided at some Primary Schools in the villages out of funds raised by Parent Teacher Associations. These pools are all equipped with filtration and clorination plant and are periodically inspected by the Department.

**ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS IN THE AREA
FOR 1972 AND 1973**

(a) Housing Inspections

	72	73
Under Public Health and Housing Acts .	232	279
Re-Inspections	49	63
Number of Preliminary Notices	376	407
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	369	401
Number of Statutory Notices served	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	—	—

**(b) Inspections under the Factories Act,
for the years 1972 and 1973**

Premises	Number on Register		Number of Inspections		Number of Written Notices		Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
	72	73	72	73	72	73	72/3
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6	5	4	3	3	3	1	Nil
2. Section 7	57	55	48	40	26	20	Nil
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	62	59	51	43	29	21	Nil
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The following defects were found as a result of the inspection.

Particulars	Found		Remedied		Referred to H.M. by H.M. Inspector		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	72	73	72	73	72/3	72/3	72/3
Want of Cleanliness	6	5	6	5	0	0	0
Over-crowding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	3	2	3	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences							
(a) Insufficient	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	12	11	12	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	22	23	22	23	0	0	0
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

CARAVAN SITES

No discontinuance orders were made by the County Council in respect of planning permission, therefore, the total number of licensed sites in the district is now 46. Of these only 3 sites have more than 20 residential caravans, whilst 27 sites contain only one.

RODENT CONTROL

A contract with Rentokil Ltd. for the control of infestation of rats and mice in all houses in the district continued during the year. This contract also covers the Council's refuse tips, but rodent control in sewers is undertaken by the direct labour staff. The Council consider that the occupiers of Agricultural holdings could make similar arrangements with commercial Pest Control firms if they so desired. This firm at present under contract, also deal with wasps' nests at residential premises, a service much appreciated by the public.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

General statistics compiled from the reports on registered premises are as follows :-

Classification of Premises		
<i>Classification</i>	<i>Number of Premises registered</i>	<i>Number of employees</i>
	72/3	72/3
Offices	18	54
Shops (Retail)	39	70
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	3	6
Catering Establishments	8	12
Canteens (included in above)	3	4
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	71	146
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total Males	70
	Total Females	76

Three premises were registered with the Council during the year. In connection with these premises, informal notices were served on the respective occupiers outlining the infringements found when inspections effecting registration were made. Routine inspections of these, and all other registered premises will be made in order to ensure that they are brought up to and maintained in a satisfactory condition.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

No further establishments were licensed, but an application to board an additional 20 dogs at an existing kennels was approved. The 7 licenced premises now provide accommodation for 162 dogs and 75 cats. It seems likely that as such establishments cater for a seasonal demand, more accommodation will be required in the future. Enforcement of infringements of the respective licencing conditions is simplified by the requirement of owners to seek renewal of licences by the Council on an annual basis.

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE

At the end of 1973 the Council had made Demolition Orders in respect of a further 11 dwellings found unfit for human habitation, bringing the total number represented since 1952 to 310. Of the 11 currently being dealt with, 5 have had applications for Discretionary Grants approved, and the remainder will, after demolition, make room for new residential development. A large proportion of the 44 houses still occupied are tenanted by families not wishing to be rehoused and undertakings have been secured in respect of such houses that they are not re-let upon becoming vacant.

Many of the unfit houses not yet represented will be brought up to standard now that virtually the whole of the district has main drainage facilities available, hence lessening the problem faced by the Huntingdon District Council upon taking over in April 1974.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The number of improvement grant applications during 1972 was 59, all of which were approved.

Standard Grants amounting to £1,815.00 were made in respect of 8 dwellings, and Discretionary Grants amounting to £38,954.00 were made in respect of 51

dwellings, averages of approximately £227·00 and £764·00 respectively.

The number of applications in 1973 was 70, again all of which were approved.

Standard Grants amounting to £2,607·00 were made in respect of 10 dwellings, and Discretionary Grants amounting to £51,876·00 were made in respect of 60 dwellings, averages of approximately £261·00, and £865·00 respectively.

In all, the Council has approved grants totalling £256,384·00, or, in more objective terms, has helped raise the living conditions for families in over 700 of the older dwellings in the district.

WATER CLOSET CONVERSION GRANTS

Eleven applications made for water closet conversions, were all approved.

Grants, amounting to £595·00 were made in respect of 11 conversions, an average of approximately £54·00 each. The small number of water closets thus provided over a two year period is misleading and must be considered along with general property improvement whereby over a hundred dwellings were provided with water closets.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The concept of the 'village stores' is gradually changing and in the rapidly developing villages modern self-service stores are appearing that are provided with up-to-date equipment and adequate storage rooms.

The work by the Department during the year on the subject of Food Hygiene has been mainly of an instructive and educational character. No final solution to the problem of stock rotation of perishable foods is possible until all manufacturers of these products print the day of production on their packages. Meanwhile the

Department continues to stress the importance of stock rotation to shopkeepers to prevent the sale of unsound food. The General Public, now more aware of the activities of the Department in relation to the soundness of any type of food for human consumption do not hesitate to contact us. As is natural, the majority of such complaints continue to be made at weekends, when the bulk of the weekly shopping is done.

Containerised imported foodstuffs are now permitted uninterrupted passage through the docks by the Port Health Authorities on the condition that they are not opened until arrival at their inland destination, and these are inspected by the appropriate District Health Authority.

This change in procedure by virtue of the Imported Food Regulations has resulted in an increasing number of visits to the wholesale food warehouses in the district in order to inspect containers of food.

These inspections have resulted in the issuing of condemnation certificates in respect of the following foodstuffs :- 48·5 cwt. vegetables, 14 cwt. fresh fruit, 4 cwt. tinned fruit and a complete consignment of Milk powder weighing 335 cwts.

MILK SUPPLY

The bulk of the milk retailed in the district is purveyed by two firms, one of which has installed photo-electrical scanning equipment in its new bottling plant to detect and reject any bottles that fail to come up to the standard of cleanliness required to show other abnormalities. This action has certainly reduced the number of complaints received by the Department in respect of dirty milk bottles or bottles containing foreign bodies.

The only method by which these problems could be overcome is by the use of disposable bottles made in all probability from plastic. Trial schemes using such bottles in other parts of the country did not meet with a very favourable response from the public, and must have created problems for the local authority responsible for refuse disposal. On the basis of an average of two

bottles per dwelling a day the Council's refuse collection service would have to cope with approximately 140,000 bottles a week.

ICE CREAM

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district ; practically all the retailers insure against power failures and do not hesitate to request the Department to inspect their stock after electricity failures.

Over the years, ice cream has developed into a sophisticated food enjoyed by young and old alike. All new premises registered by the Council continued the normal trend of selling prepacked brands manufactured and distributed by ' national ' firms.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the area. All the meat sold is imported from adjoining areas, butchers buying direct from wholesalers or from local fatstock markets, and arranging for animals to be slaughtered in premises situated outside the district.

By arrangements with the Council and two neighbouring Authorities, the Department assist in the inspection of meat at Abattoirs in those districts in any emergency.

Small quantities of tinned meat, fruit and other foods were condemned during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The Food premises in the district have been classified as follows :-

	1972/3
Bakers	4
Butchers	8
Cafés and Canteens	11
Confectioners	2
Fish Shops	4
General Stores	54
Greengrocers	5
Licensed Premises	31
Wholesale Food Warehouses	3

The shops are small and are mostly owner-occupied, very few shop assistants being employed.

ADULTERATION

Huntingdon County Council is the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstances arose where it was considered any action could with advantage, be taken by the Department.

